



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

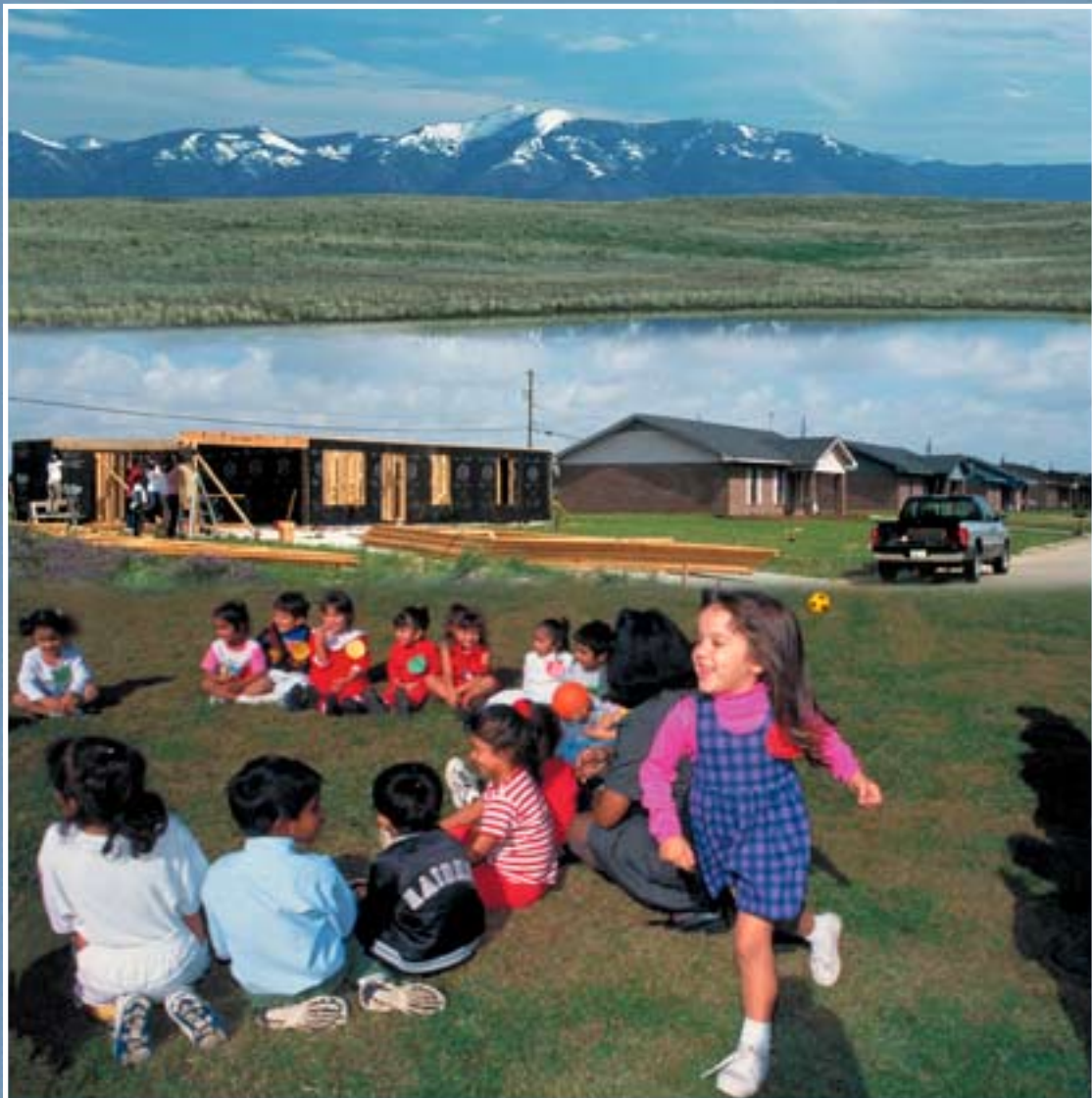
Office of the  
Secretary

September 2003

# USDA Helping America **THRIVE** through Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Alleviating Hunger, Revitalizing Communities and  
Helping the Environment

A Guide to Nutrition Assistance, Housing and Family Care  
offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture





# Contents

Introduction..... 1

Summer Food Service Program .....2

Child and Adult Food Care Program ..... 3

The Emergency Food Assistance Program .....4

Food for Progress—Alleviating Hunger Around the World .....5

Section 416(b) Program .....6

McGovern-Dole Programs .....7

Self-Help Housing .....8

Multi-Family Housing .....9

Community Facilities .....9

Farm Labor Housing ..... 10

Helping the Environment ..... 11





“USDA plays an important role in the President’s Faith-Based and Community Initiatives by providing nutrition assistance, housing and family care programs to organizations as they work to compassionately meet the needs of their communities.”

Ann M. Veneman  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**T**eaching faith-based and community organizations about opportunities to participate in USDA programs that can benefit their communities and the individuals who live there

**H**arnessing the commitment and energy of these organizations and connecting them to USDA programs and partners on the local level

**R**ejuvenating USDA programs with new ideas and fresh perspectives

**I**mproving the provision of services and resources to those most in need

**V**anquishing hunger

**E**ncouraging protection of natural resources.

On December 12, 2002, President Bush signed an executive order that extended Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives strengthens partnerships with faith-based and community organizations by connecting resources to needs more effectively and efficiently. It works with existing programs to help eliminate hunger, revitalize communities and protect the environment.

USDA has a history of partnership with nonprofit organizations to carry out its diverse programs. USDA’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will build on this history to help America T.H.R.I.V.E.

The information in this brochure answers key questions about USDA programs that provide the best opportunities for faith-based and community organizations to partner with USDA.

For more information about the programs in this brochure, you may contact:

USDA Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
1400 Independence Ave.,  
SW, Room 200A  
Washington, DC 20250  
(202) 720-3631  
[www.usda.gov/fbci](http://www.usda.gov/fbci)  
[fbci@usda.gov](mailto:fbci@usda.gov)

## Summer Food Service Program

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

### Who is eligible for food?

Children 18 and younger may receive free meals and snacks through SFSP. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities over age 18 who participate in school programs for people with mental or physical disabilities.

### How does the program reach recipients?

States approve SFSP meal sites as open, enrolled, or camp sites. Open sites operate in low-income areas where at least half the children come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, making them eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

Meals are served free to any child at the open site. Enrolled sites provide free meals to children enrolled in an activity program at the site where at least half of them are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

### How much reimbursement does the government provide?

The maximum reimbursement per meal from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 is:

Breakfast	\$1.35
Lunch/Supper	\$2.35
Snack	\$0.55

In addition, administrative costs can also be reimbursed for breakfast, lunch/supper, and a snack at 10.5 cents, 20.5 cents, and 5.25 cents, respectively. Administrative rates are higher for meals served in rural areas or when the site prepares its own meals. All rates are higher in Alaska and Hawaii.

### Whom do I contact?

To learn more about SFSP in your State, contact your administering agency—which is usually the education department. Requests for information may also be sent to [CNDInternet@fns.usda.gov](mailto:CNDInternet@fns.usda.gov), or call 703-305-2590. To find your State agency, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Summer/contacts.html>.

---

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

---



## Child and Adult Food Care Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a Federal program that provides healthy meals and snacks to children and adults receiving day care. It plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families.

CACFP provides reimbursement for meals served in participating centers and day care homes. It is administered at the Federal level by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In most States, the State education or health department administers CACFP. Sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with their State agencies to operate the program.

### Who is eligible for CACFP meals and snacks?

Children age 12 and younger are eligible to receive up to two meals and one snack each day at a day care home or center through CACFP. Migrant children age 15 and younger, and persons with disabilities, regardless of their age, are also eligible for CACFP. Afterschool care snacks are available to children through age 18.

Adult participants must be functionally impaired or age 60 and older, and enrolled in an adult day care center where they may receive up to two meals and one snack each day through CACFP.

### What types of facilities may receive reimbursement for CACFP meals?

Child Care Centers  
Family Day Care Homes  
Homeless Shelters  
Adult Day Care Centers

### Whom do I contact?

To learn more about CACFP, contact your State agency. To find your State agency, visit [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm). Requests for information may also be sent to [CNDInternet@fns.usda.gov](mailto:CNDInternet@fns.usda.gov), or call 703-305-2590.

---

CACFP provides reimbursement for meals served in participating centers and day care homes. It is administered at the Federal level by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

---





## The Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a Federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income needy people, including the elderly, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.

The USDA makes commodity foods available to State distributing agencies. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected—usually food banks—which, in turn, distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.

### What foods are available?

Canned & dried fruits  
Canned vegetables  
Peanut butter  
Dried egg mix  
Meat/poultry/fish  
Nonfat dry milk  
Pasta products  
Rice/cereal

The types of commodity foods USDA purchases for TEFAP distribution vary depending on the preferences of States and agricultural market conditions. More than 50 different kinds of products were made available for fiscal year 2003.

### How do TEFAP foods reach recipients?

State agencies work out details of administration and distribution. They select local organizations that distribute directly to households, serve meals, or distribute to other local organizations that perform these functions.

### What organizations are eligible to distribute food?

Public or private nonprofit organizations that provide food and nutrition assistance to the needy are eligible. Organizations that distribute food for home use must determine the household's eligibility by applying income standards. Organizations that provide prepared meals are also eligible to receive commodities if they can demonstrate that they serve predominantly needy persons.

### Whom do I contact?

To learn more about TEFAP and for a list of State agencies offering the program, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/tefap>. Requests for information may also be sent to [fdd-psb@fns.usda.gov](mailto:fdd-psb@fns.usda.gov), or call 703-305-2680.

---

The USDA makes commodity foods available to State distributing agencies. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected—usually food banks—which, in turn, distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.

---





## Food For Progress—Promoting Free Enterprise Policy Reforms

The Food for Progress Program is designed to support countries that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their agricultural economies through changes in commodity prices, marketing, input availability, distribution, and private sector involvement.

Under the Food for Progress Act of 1985, U.S. agricultural commodities are provided to developing countries and emerging democracies committed to expanding free enterprise in the agricultural sector.

Commodities are currently provided on a donation basis to foreign governments, private voluntary organizations, nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, and inter-governmental organizations.

### Who is eligible for the program?

USDA will consider proposals for all developing countries and territories that meet the requirements of the Food for Progress Act of 1985. Priority will be given to countries that are engaged in private sector development, that are net food importers, and that have populations with low incomes. USDA will give priority to countries and territories that appear on the eligibility list under the 1999 Food Aid Convention.

### Whom do I contact?

For more information, contact the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service at 202-720-4221 or e-mail [PPDED@fas.usda.gov](mailto:PPDED@fas.usda.gov). Information also is available online at [www.fas.usda.gov/food-aid.html](http://www.fas.usda.gov/food-aid.html).

---

Under the Food for Progress Act of 1985, U.S. agricultural commodities are provided to developing countries and emerging democracies committed to expanding free enterprise in the agricultural sector.

---



## Section 416(b) Program—Alleviating Hunger Overseas

Section 416(b) of the Agriculture Act of 1949 authorizes the donation of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)-owned commodities in surplus of domestic program requirements to carry out programs of assistance in developing and friendly countries.

### How does Section 416(b) work?

The commodities are made available for donation through agreements with foreign governments, private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, and the World Food Program.

Depending on the agreement, the commodities donated under Section 416(b) may be used for direct feeding or may be sold in the recipient country, and the proceeds may be used to support agricultural, economic, or infrastructure development programs in that country.

### What should I know?

Donations may not reduce the amounts of commodities that are traditionally donated to U.S. domestic feeding programs or agencies, and may not disrupt normal commercial sales.

Availability of commodities depends on CCC inventories and acquisitions, and programming varies from year to year.

### Whom do I contact?

To learn more about Section 416(b), visit USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service online at [www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/FoodAid/416b/section416b.html](http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/FoodAid/416b/section416b.html). Questions or comments can be directed to the Program Development Division at 202-720-4221 or by e-mail at [PPDED@fas.usda.gov](mailto:PPDED@fas.usda.gov).

---

Depending on the agreement, the commodities donated under Section 416(b) may be used for direct feeding or may be sold in the recipient country, and the proceeds may be used to support agricultural, economic, or infrastructure development programs in that country.

---



## McGovern-Dole Program–School Feeding and Nutrition Programs Overseas

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program is intended to support countries that have made commitments to support and enhance the quality of their education and nutrition sectors.

A major thrust is school and pre-school feeding to increase access to education, especially for girls. Commodities produced in the United States will be provided to increase the nutritional status and learning potential of children, with particular attention given to children under the age of five years, pre-school and primary-school-age children, in addition to pregnant and lactating mothers.

### What countries are eligible?

USDA will consider proposals for all developing countries, and the government's commitment to education will be taken into account.

Organizations should consider the following factors when determining which country/region to target for a proposal submission:

- Countries/regions where there is both a need in the education sector and a need for food to improve the nutrition status of beneficiaries,
- Countries/regions with a high prevalence of food insecurity, i.e., net food importers, and
- Countries listed as low-income or lower-middle- income economies (World Bank definition).

Organizations should consider the appropriateness of a particular commodity for use within the recipient country.

### Whom do I contact?

For further information on program availability and budgeting please call the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Program Development Division at 202-720-4221 or e-mail to [PPDED@fas.usda.gov](mailto:PPDED@fas.usda.gov). Additional information is available online at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/FoodAid/FFE/FFE.html>.

---

A major thrust is school and pre-school feeding to increase access to education, especially for girls.

---



## Self-Help Housing

Self-help housing combines the Rural Development direct lending program for home purchases with a grant program that helps nonprofit organizations guide borrowers in the construction of new homes, reducing by almost 20 percent the total cost of purchasing a home. The program is targeted to families who are unable to buy affordable, safe housing through conventional lenders.

Through Rural Development Self-Help Housing, many families have been able to achieve the American dream of home ownership.

### What are some benefits of Self-Help Housing projects?

The Self-Help Housing Program provides low- and very-low-income families with an excellent opportunity to become proud homeowners, contributing to family stability and creating stronger rural economies.

Because the families work together to build each other's homes, usually in groups of 5 to 12 families, they develop a sense of community that fosters long-lasting ties. The families also provide at least 65 percent of the labor involved in building the homes.

### Who is eligible for Self-Help Housing?

Low- and very-low-income individuals and their families who lack access to basic housing are eligible.

### Whom do I contact to get started?

Information on programs is available from the USDA Rural Development office serving your area. To find that office, visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd\\_map.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html). Rural Development officials can explain how to apply for assistance, provide valuable advice on project planning, and help your organization to establish partnerships with other organizations and other entities. You may also contact the Rural Housing Service staff at (202) 720-5177.

---

Because the families work together to build each other's homes, usually in groups of 5 to 12 families, they develop a sense of community that fosters long-lasting ties.

---





## Multi-Family Housing

USDA Rural Development makes and guarantees loans and provides grants to housing developers for the construction and renovation of multi-family housing facilities in rural areas.

### Who is eligible for tenancy?

Very low-, low-, and moderate-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities are eligible for tenancy. Very low income is defined as below 50 percent of the area median income (AMI); low income is between 50 and 80 percent of AMI; and moderate income is capped at \$5,500 above the low-income limit. Elderly and disabled persons applying for the program may have incomes up to 80 percent of AMI. Those living in substandard housing are given first priority for tenancy. When rental assistance is used, top priority is given to very low-income families.

### Whom do I contact?

For further information visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/common/program\\_info.htm#MFH](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/common/program_info.htm#MFH), or call (202)720-3773.



## Community Facilities

Community Facilities Programs are designed to finance and facilitate the development of essential community facilities and services in rural areas.

USDA is committed to help build stronger, more vibrant rural communities across the nation. Through the Community Facilities loan program, Rural Development is striving to ensure that essential community facilities—such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, schools, and child-care centers—are readily available to all rural Americans.

### Who is eligible for Community Facilities loan and grant programs?

Community Facilities programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and loan guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to nonprofit corporations and tribal governments.

### Whom do I contact?

For further information and assistance on projects that may be eligible for the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Programs visit the Rural Development Web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/essent\\_facil.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/essent_facil.htm) or call (202) 720-1500.

---

Those living in substandard housing are given first priority for tenancy. When rental assistance is used, top priority is given to very low-income families.

---

---

Community Facilities programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population.

---

## Farm Labor Housing

The Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant program provides capital financing for the development of housing for domestic farm laborers. It is the only nationwide program designed to provide housing for farm laborers.

### Who is eligible for a Farm Labor Housing loan?

Loans are made to farmers, associations of farmers, family farm corporations, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and associations of farmworkers.

Grants are made to farmworker associations, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and public agencies. Funds may be used in urban areas for nearby farm labor.

### How can Farm Labor Housing loans and grants be used?

Farm Labor Housing loans and grants are provided to buy, build, improve, or repair housing and related facilities for farm laborers, including persons whose income is earned in aquaculture and those engaged in on-farm processing.

Funds can be used to purchase a site or a leasehold interest in a site; to construct housing and related day care facilities or community rooms; to pay fees to purchase durable household furnishings; and to pay construction loan interest.

### Whom do I contact?

For further information contact the Rural Housing Service at (202) 720-3773 or visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs). To find your State office go to [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd\\_map.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html).

---

Grants are made to farm-worker associations, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and public agencies. Funds may be used in urban areas for nearby farm labor.

---



## Helping the Environment

USDA has a number of projects that nonprofit organizations and volunteers may participate in to help protect and conserve the environment, such as the Earth Team and the Forest Service volunteer program. Additional information is available at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/) or 1-888-LANDCARE, in addition to [www.fs.usda.gov/fsjobs/volunteers.html](http://www.fs.usda.gov/fsjobs/volunteers.html) or 202-205-8333.





The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.